

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

USSR

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The Technical Services of the Soviet Army

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1. There were no "Engineering Services," such as the "Artillery Engineering Service" or the "Tank Engineering Service," of the various arms of the Soviet Army, but there were Technical Services. Engineering Troops (Inzhinernii Voiska) were always considered to be part of the Engineers and not to belong to the various arms. For example, the "nachalnik inzhinernii sluzhbi 25 bronitankovoi divizii" (chief of the engineering service of the 25th tank division) was on the staff of the tank division and in charge of the engineering troops of the division. This was also true for such units as those of artillery and air. The engineering organization attached to air units was referred to as the "Inzhinero-Aerodromnaya Sluzhba" (Engineering Aerodrome Service).
2. The Technical Services (Tekhnicheskii Sluzhbi), on the other hand, were considered to be part of the arms with which they served, such as infantry or tanks. The Technical Services were in charge of repair and maintenance of such equipment as tanks, trucks, and aircraft. There was a Technical Service in each arm. The head of the Technical Service in a division was called the "pomoshnik komandira divizii po tekhnicheskii chasti" (assistant to the division commander for technical affairs).

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3. A well educated Technical Service officer was referred to, for example, as an Artillery Engineer (Artillerist Inzhiner). His official signature would probably read:

"rank name
Military Engineer of Artillery
(Voenni Inzhiner Artillerii)".

A less well educated officer would be referred to as a "technician" (tekhnik). This would be true if the officer had only graduated from, for example, a military artillery technical school (voenno artilleriskoye tekhnicheskoye uchilishche).

4. There were also commissions in Technical Troops (Tekhnicheskii Voiska), such as Chemical Defense, Transportation, and Railway Troops.

5. Officers of the Technical Services were regular career officers, whose training was principally technical. They were ineligible to become commanding officers of combat units as they were not adequately trained in tactics. They would be, for example, graduates of the Academy of Artillery Sciences rather than of the Military Artillery Academy. They would all come under the Technical Service of the appropriate arm.

for example, that in the "Glavnoye Artilleriskoye Upravlenie" (Chief Artillery Administration) there was an "Upravlenie dlia Tekhnicheskoi Sluzhbi" (Technical Service Administration).

The requisites to qualify as a member of a Technical Service were fairly simple. For example, a "tekhnik" (mechanic) who had graduated from a civilian technicum for tractors or in "avto-tekhnika" could qualify as a lieutenant "tekhnik" of tanks. As a result, there were not many military technical schools (uchilishche).

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